

3. Erosion and Pollution Control Plan

What is an Erosion and Pollution Control Plan?

An Erosion and Pollution Control Plan (EPCP) is a document that recognizes the potential for water quality impacts on a construction project and provides an illustrated plan of action and measures to control and mitigate water pollution impacts.

The EPCP is a stand-alone document. Specifications for the EPCP may be incorporated into construction documents but must have the ability to be separated and still provide complete construction activity measures for controlling water pollution. An EPCP is mandatory in the City of Chattanooga.

What is an Adequate Plan?

An EPCP must contain sufficient information to satisfy the local and state stormwater management agency that effective and adequate measures are in place for the proposed construction activity. Detail and complexity should be commensurate with the scale and scope of the construction activity or project as well as the severity of site conditions and sensitivity of the surrounding environment.

Ultimately, the adequacy of the plan will be measured against its effectiveness. Current state and some local government standards specify measurable parameters, which are enforced through a permit program. The judicious and liberal use of the BMP described in this manual provides the proper tools for an adequate plan.

Standards and Specifications

This manual describes recommended and approved standards and specifications for BMP. The application of these BMP in any EPCP should be clearly identified and noted on any document or plan sheet. The symbology shown in this manual should be used as a graphic and communication aid that can simplify and make the plan development process more efficient. This coding system minimizes the need for certain details and promotes uniformity in plan documents.

Modifications or alternative BMP may also be employed but may require the prior approval of the local governing jurisdiction.

Responsibility for Plan Preparation and Implementation

Responsibility for the preparation and implementation of the plan rests with the property owner or developer. The owner/developer may designate an engineer to prepare the plan and a contractor to implement the plan, but the responsibility remains with the owner/developer.

Plan Enforcement

Plan enforcement is through a permit program administered by the state, and in most cases, by a local stormwater agency. The efficacy of the EPCP is monitored by site inspection of the construction activity. The following list is typical of the items usually reviewed during a site inspection.

- Are BMP in place, adequate, and properly constructed?
- Have clearing operations been confined to the limits shown on the plan?
- Is vegetation outside of the designated cleared area protected and supplemented?
- Are sediment, debris, dust, oil, or other water contaminants being transferred from the site by vehicles, equipment, water, or wind?
- Is there evidence of erosion problems in the vicinity of stormwater management facilities?
- Are the BMP effective?
- Is appropriate vegetation being established as needed in specified areas?
- Is work progressing according to the planned schedule and sequence?
- Have necessary stream channel crossings been installed?
- Has topsoil been salvaged and stored as designated?
- Is there any fire hazard?
- Are BMP being maintained?
- What is the condition of water leaving the site?
- Are necessary stream buffers in place and protected?